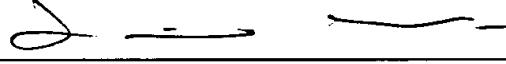


Per the above amendment, claims 19-44 each have been amended and claims 48-52 newly added. Each independent claims 39, 44 and 48 now defines the embodiment of the instant invention as shown in Fig. 8 in which the housing is integrated to the body of the intravenous device.

In contrast, the "body 52" relied upon in the Office Action in actuality is a mount that is placed over a needle hub 22, best shown in Fig. 10 and disclosed in column 4, lines 51-54 of Sweeney. Newby likewise fails to disclose any housing integrated to the body of an intravenous device.

In view of the foregoing, applicant respectfully submits that the instant invention is patentable over the prior art. Accordingly, the examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider the application and allow all of the pending claims.

Respectfully submitted,


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Date: Dec 13 2002

VERSION TO SHOW MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

Attachment Claims Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. 1.121(c)(1)(ii)

Please amend claims 39 and 44 as follows:

39. (Amended) An intravenous device, comprising:
a body having one end from which a needle extends and an other end to which a flexible tubing is connected for establishing a fluid communication path therethrough whereby intravenous infusion to or withdrawal of fluid from a patient may be effected; and
a housing integrated and hingedly attached to said one end of said body, said housing being pivotable to a position in substantial alignment along the longitudinal axis of said body so as to envelop said needle.

44. (Amended) Safety intravenous infusion assembly to prevent a contaminated needle of [said] an infusion device from being exposed to the environment, comprising:
a body of said infusion device having an end whereto said needle is attached and an other end whereto a flexible tube through which fluid passes is connected;
a housing integrated and flexibly attached to said body, said housing being pivotable to a position in substantial alignment along the longitudinal axis of said body for enveloping said needle.

Please add new claims 48-52 as follows:

48. (Newly added) An intravenous device, comprising:
a winged body having one end from which a needle extends and an other end to which a flexible tubing is connected for establishing a fluid communication path

whereby intravenous infusion to or withdrawal of fluid from a patient may be effected; and

a housing integrally attached to said one end of said body, said housing being pivotable to a position in substantial alignment along the longitudinal axis of said body to envelop said needle.

49. (Newly added) Intravenous device of claim 48, further comprising:

locking means integrated to said housing for fixedly retaining said needle within said housing once said needle is enveloped by said housing.

50. (Newly added) Intravenous device of claim 49, wherein said locking means comprises a hook that snaps over and retains said needle within said housing when said housing is pivoted substantially to said alignment position.

51. (Newly added) Intravenous device of claim 49, wherein said locking means comprises at least one pair of fingers coacting to prevent said needle from being removed from said housing once said housing is pivoted to envelop said needle.

52. (Newly added) Intravenous device of claim 49, wherein said one end of said body includes at least one locking means and said housing includes at least an other locking means; and

wherein said one and other locking means coact with each other for fixedly retaining said housing relative to said body when said housing is pivoted to envelop said needle.